GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4836
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2001
W.T.O. PROGRAMME
DHARMRAJ SINGH PATEL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering the Geneva negotiations for liberalization in the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the details of terms and conditions of the Geneva agreement and figures of increase in agriculture production during each of the last three years as per the World Trade Organisation Agreement;

(c) whether the Government propose to implement further the Geneva agreement through World Trade Organisation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) to (d): Being a signatory to the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) under the World Trade Organisation (WTO), India is committed to abide by the provisions of the Agreement. Article 20 of the AoA mandates negotiations for further progressing liberalization to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system in the world. India, on 15.1.2001 has submitted its initial negotiating proposals to WTO. With a view to deriving the best possible benefits from the negotiations, in its proposals, besides demanding substantial and meaningful reductions in tariffs including elimination of peak tariff and tariff escalation, substantial reductions in domestic support and elimination of export subsidies by the developed countries, the country has also demanded the increased flexibility enjoyed by the developing countries by creation of a `Food Security Box` for providing domestic support to the agriculture sector under the special and differential (S&D) provisions as also further strengthening of trade defence mechanisms with a view to ensuring its food security and taking care of livelihood concerns. The said mandated negotiations have been going on at Geneva since January, 2000.

The details of production of the major agricultural commodities in the country over the last three years are annexed.

ANNEXURE

The details of production of major agricultural commodities in the country over the last three years.

(Million tonnes)

Commodity	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Rice	82.54	86.08	89.48
Wheat	66.35	71.29	75.57
Coarse Cereals	30.40	31.33	30.47
Cereals	179.29	188.70	195.52
Pulses	12.97	14.91	13.35
Total Foodgrains	192.26	203.61	208.87
Oil Seeds	21.32	24.75	20.87
Sugarcane (Cane)	279.54	295.73	299.23
Cotton +	108.50	122.90	116.40
Jute ++	99.60	88.40	94.20
Mesta ++	10.60	9.70	11.10
Jute & Mesta ++	110.20	98.10	105.30

\+ Lakh bales of 170 kgs each.

++ Lakh bales of 180 kgs each.